

MINUTES
Lexington County Library Board Meeting
Lexington Main Library
May 20, 2024
3:30 PM

The Lexington County Library Board held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, May 20, 2024, in the Lexington Main Library beginning at 3:30 PM. Vice-Chair Bill Jones presided.

Dr. Renita Irving gave the Invocation.

Members Attending:	Mr. Bill Jones	Mrs. Stephanie Sturkie
	Ms. Kay Mein	Dr. Renita Irving
	Dr. Maria Arroyo	Ms. Barbara Remick

Members Absent:	Mrs. Linda Griffith	Mrs. Tiffany Lastinger
	Mr. Vachel Jones	

Also in attendance: Kelly Poole, Director; Michelle Williams, Deputy Director of Personnel; Amber Conger, Deputy Director of Operations; Wendy Groscoast, Executive Assistant and Mr. George Duke

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda was posted on the Library's website and in the lobby of the Lexington Main Library.

Adoption of Agenda – Board Meeting on May 20, 2024

Vice-Chair Bill Jones asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mrs. Stephanie Sturkie made a motion to adopt the May 20, 2024, agenda, seconded by Dr. Maria Arroyo.

Vice-Chair Bill Jones called for the vote.

In Favor:	Mr. Bill Jones	Mrs. Stephanie Sturkie
	Ms. Barbara Remick	Dr. Renita Irving
	Dr. Maria Arroyo	Ms. Kay Mein

***Approval of Minutes** – Board Meeting on April 29, 2024

Vice-Chair Bill Jones asked if there were any additions or corrections to the April 29, 2024, meeting minutes. Mr. George Duke a motion to accept the April 29, 2024, meeting minutes, seconded by Mrs. Stephanie Sturkie.

Vice-Chair Bill Jones called for the vote.

In Favor:	Mr. Bill Jones	Mrs. Stephanie Sturkie
	Ms. Kay Mein	Dr. Renita Irving

Dr. Maria Arroyo

Abstained: Ms. Barbara Remick

Chairman's Report

Vice-Chair Bill Jones introduced the newest Library Board member, Ms. Barbara Remick. She was appointed to replace Mr. George Duke, who recently retired from the Board. Mr. George Duke expressed his appreciation for his time serving on the Library Board.

Announcements – Vice-Chair Bill Jones asked if there were any announcements. There were none.

Committee Reports – Vice-Chair Bill Jones asked if there were any Committee Reports.

- **Finance Committee** (Mrs. Stephanie Sturkie) – There was none.
- **By-Laws and Library Policies Committee** – There was none.
- **Long-Range Planning/Advocacy Committee** (Mr. Bill Jones) – There was none.
- **Facilities/Branch Committee** (Mr. Bill Jones) – There was none.

Director's Report – Director Poole gave the Director's Report and shared the Bank Reconciliation Report for April 2024.

Director Poole informed the Board that the ERATE grant application request has been approved, and she will submit a request to accept the award to County Council at the June 12, 2024, meeting. ERATE is a federally funded program used to pay for technology in schools and libraries. The grants received each year pay for the library's internet. This year's application is for hardware replacements and mobile library hot spots. The state ERATE program complements the federal program and pays for a portion of items not covered by the federal program. This grant totals approximately \$17,000 and has averaged approximately \$50,000 per year over the last four years.

Director Poole informed the Board that the SC Association of Counties (SCAC) is an organization that helps to support county leadership, such as County Council and Clerk to Council for each county in SC. This year, they want to have an exhibit at the SC State Fair to highlight things that are great about each county. The library submitted the following to County Administration: Last year, the Lexington County Public Library system saw over 594,000 visits to the library, circulated approximately 1.2 million physical items, saw 94,738 program attendees, has five community gardens, provided 24/7 available Wi-Fi, averaged over 9,000 new card holders each month and hosted numerous special events, such as SC Philharmonic performances.

Director Poole reassured the Board that Library leadership continues to monitor Artificial Intelligence (AI) in relation to a library perspective. Several staff members attended a conference in the fall about AI and its uses for programming, education and training. This technology is analogous to when the internet

was first being introduced, and the library's role to provide guidance for patrons. Board members were supportive of the Library's proactive approach to stay informed about AI and also aware of the possible hurdles that the technology could present.

Director Poole updated the Board of the status of the FY 25 budget process. The second reading of the proposed County budget will be held on June 12, and the third and final reading will be held on June 25. Director Poole reviewed the FY 2024-25 Budget Request presentation that was shared at the May 7 County Council meeting, outlining the five new programs/positions the Library is requesting: a Business Analyst for Admin, a Librarian I in Chapin, a Clerk position at Lexington Main, a Librarian III in the Collection Management department and an Outreach Coordinator in Admin. County Council voted to approve the budget request and use a portion of the Library's Fund Balance. If approved, these positions will be posted in August.

Director Poole reiterated to the Board that the Budget Proviso with an amendment was sent back to House with the following: Amend the bill, as and if amended, Part IB, Section 27, STATE LIBRARY, page 361, proviso 27.1, line 6, by inserting a sentence at the end to read:

/ Prior to receiving any of these funds, county libraries must certify to the State Library that their county libraries do not offer any books or materials that appeal to the prurient interest of children under the age of seventeen in children's, youth, or teen book sections of libraries and are only made available with explicit parental consent. /

A Conference Committee has been formed to review and choose either the House or Senate proviso. The Committee members are: House Members Bruce Bannister from Greenville, Philip Lowe from Florence and Leon Stavrinakis from Charleston; and Senate members Harvey Peeler from Cherokee, Nikki Setzler from Lexington and Sean Bennett from Dorchester. The Board is encouraged to contact their representatives.

Director Poole reminded the Board that New York Times bestselling author, Kathy Reichs, will be at the Lexington Main Library on May 23 at 6:30 PM for an author talk to discuss her novels and upcoming work as the kickoff presenter for the Adult Summer Reading Program.

Deputy Director Michelle Williams shared with the Board that a Library Leadership Retreat was held on May 16 at the American Legion Hut. Branch librarians and library administration attended the retreat, Staff members from Midlands Technical College and the SC State Library provided presentations which focused on critical-thinking, decision-making and team-building scenarios and exercises.

Unfinished Business – Vice-Chair Bill Jones asked if there was any Unfinished Business.

Juvenile Library Card Restrictions

The Board agreed to continue to table this discussion until the next meeting. Further discussion of this topic will fall under Unfinished Business at the June 24, 2024, Library Board Meeting.

New Business – Vice-Chair Bill Jones asked if there was any New Business. There was none.

***Adjournment** – Dr. Renita Irving moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. George Duke.

Vice-Chair Bill Jones called for the vote.

In Favor:	Mr. Bill Jones	Ms. Kay Mein
	Ms. Barbara Remick	Dr. Renita Irving
	Dr. Maria Arroyo	

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:20 PM.

Next meeting will be 10:30 AM on June 24, 2024.

* Mr. George Duke was ineligible to make a motion on April’s Board Meeting minutes and adjournment. Corrections were approved during the Board Meeting held June 24, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy D. Groscost
Executive Assistant

Kelly R. Poole
Director